

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

6TH AND 7TH SEPTEMBER 2025

We, the people of Corpus Christi, seek to grow in living Christ-centred mission, sharing our gifts to foster welcome, justice and community in today's world.

A very warm welcome to anyone who is new to the parish.

The Cost of Discipleship

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Following Jesus is a demanding act which calls for drastic measures. To follow Jesus is not a casual decision, nor is it one that we can take lightly. In the Gospels, Jesus makes it clear that discipleship demands a commitment deeper and stronger even than family bonds. He says, "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me" (Mt 10:37). These words are not meant to diminish the value of family, but to remind us that our first and ultimate loyalty must be to Christ.

Discipleship is more than belonging to a parish or fulfilling certain obligations. It is a total way of life. It calls us to put Jesus at the very center of our decisions, relationships, priorities, and sacrifices. It requires courage to walk with Him when the path is demanding, perseverance when the journey feels long, and faith when the way forward is unclear.

True discipleship will sometimes unsettle us, stretch us, and even place us at odds with the comfort of the world around us. We may have to say "no," to some of our inclinations and fancies. Yet, it is also the path to life, joy, and peace. To give Christ the first place in our hearts is not to lose, but to gain everything that truly matters.

Let us ask ourselves today: Is Jesus the deepest bond in my life? Do I follow Him out of convenience, or out of love and conviction? Am I ready to give-up something that may

take us away from the Lord, even when it is so dear to us? May our answer be one of wholehearted commitment, for the Lord desires not half-hearted followers, but true disciples. Then our lives will have its saltiness and light which the lord seeks.

In Christ,

Fr Abraham Kunnatholy CMI



First Reading

Wisdom 9:13-18

Who can comprehend the will of God?

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 89:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. v.1

(R.) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Second Reading

Philemon 12-17:Phlm 9-10, 12-17

Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear brother

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant,

and teach me your laws.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

SATURDAY VIGIL 6pm SUNDAY 7.30am & 9.30am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday & Wednesday at 6pm Thursday & Friday at 9.10am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday evening from 5.00pm - 5.45pm in the Meeting Room

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

Address: 86-92 Andromeda Drive

Cranebrook, NSW, 2749

Postal: PO Box 21

Cranebrook , NSW, 2749

Phone: 4730 1249

Email: cranebrook@parracatholic.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/

CorpusChristiParishCranebrook

Office Hours: 9:00 am - 3:30pm (Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri)

PARISH TEAM:

Parish Priest-Fr Abraham Kunnatholy CMI

- -Abraham.Kunnatholy@parracatholic.org
- 0492894167 (emergencies only)
- Presbytery: 4729 1675

Mrs Sue Weekes — Secretarial Support

Mrs Vanessa Sultana – Office Support

SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:

Corpus Christi Primary – ph 4726 2200

(Principal - Mrs Sarah O'Rourke)

Xavier College – ph 4777 0900 (Principal - Mr Michael Pate)

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.

Visit our website: www.corpuschristi.org.au

Parish News

Prayer for all our fathers and significant men in our lives...

Heavenly Father,

You entrusted your Son, Jesus, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father. We ask you to bless all fathers as they care for their families.

Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience. Support them in their work and protect those who depend on them. May they receive your grace abundantly, and may they experience you through the care and love they give.

Bless them with courage and perseverance to walk in your ways and to find joy in the moments of their lives. Strengthen them to live, practice, and proclaim your faith. We entrust all fathers to your loving care and to the protection of Saint Joseph, the earthly father of our God.

Amen.



May we keep in our prayers the children of our parish who are receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist during the month of September



Heavenly Father, we humbly seek Your divine guidance for our First Communicants.

May they feel Your loving presence as they prepare to receive the Holy Eucharist.

Grant them understanding, faith, and joy in this sacred journey.

Surround them with Your grace, and may their hearts be open to the beauty of Your love.

The Sacrament of First Eucharist will take place during the following weekend Masses:

Saturday 6th of September at the 6pm Vigil and Sunday 13th of September at the 9.30am Mass

Parish Morning Tea



Our parish hosts a morning tea after our 9.30am Mass on the second Sunday of every month. Our next parish morning tea will take place on

SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

Everyone is welcome. We warmly encourage you to invite your friends and family to join us both for Mass and morning tea

Corpus Christi Youth Group

Beginning in October we will be starting a youth group for our over 18 year old youth. The aim of this group will be fellowship as well as leading a 6pm Vigil once a month. To register to be a part of this, please place your contact details on the sheet available in the foyer. For more information, please contact the parish office.

'Young in Spirit' Seniors Group

Our seniors group meets on the last Friday morning of each month after 9.10am Mass in the Parish Office. Our next senior's morning tea will take place on

FRIDAY 26TH OF SEPTEMBER

Please bring a small plate of food to share for morning tea. New members are always welcome.

MINISTRY ROSTER

Thank you to everyone who contributes to our parish as a Liturgical Minister. The ministry roster for the months of September and October were emailed to all volunteers on Friday 29th of August. If you are a volunteer and didn't receive the roster, please contact the parish office.



SACRAMENTS AT CORPUS CHRISTI

Baptisms take place on the first and third Sunday of each month at 11am.

Parents wishing to have their child baptised are asked to contact the Parish Office to book the date of baptism and to register for the Rite of Welcome and Information Meeting. (These take place on the fourth Sunday of the month prior to your child's baptism.)

Bookings for weddings and funerals are taken on request.

Please contact the Parish Office



Our sacraments of penance, First Eucharist and confirmation are already under way for 2025. Dates for 2026 will be published later in the year.

CATECHIST NEWS...

Are you able to help??



The Catechist Team is currently looking for volunteers to teach in government schools.

If you can spare about two hours each week during school terms and would like to find our more about becoming a teacher or a helper, you can call the parish office or our Catechist Co Ordinator, Lorrene Gorman on 0414 471 329.

Training is provided.

LET US OFFER GIFTS OF PRAYER

Recently Deceased:

Jean Imbert, Louisiana Sombilla Vale, Delia De Leon, Jim Williamson Anniversaries:

Bernardo R. Chanyungco, Nenita Mangcucang

For those who are sick:

Darren Hooton, Ruta Pelenatino, Rose Zahra, Marlene Rodger, Fr. Jerome Antogop

Diocesan News

BISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY APPEAL – SUPPORTING OUR SENIOR PRIESTS AS THEY CONTINUE TO SERVE.

This Father's Day, as we thank the father figures in our lives, let's also honour our spiritual fathers — the priests who nurture our faith. Even after stepping back from administration, they continue to serve in faithful ways: offering sacraments, celebrating Masses, hearing confessions, assisting at services, and serving as chaplains in aged care. Your generosity helps ensure our ageing priests receive the care, comfort, and dignity they deserve in this next chapter of their lives. Please give generously at parracatholic.org/fathersdayappeal or scan the QR code. Thank you.

The Bishop's Father's Day Appeal will take place this weekend



Mary and Synodality Short Course: 3, 10, 17, 24 September

Join us for a 4-week formation series, Mary & Synodality: Perspectives in Marian Theology for our Synodal Church, presented by Qwayne Guevara (MA Theology and Ministry, Grad Dip Theol). Through Scripture, theology, and contemporary thought, we will explore how Mary's witness offers inspiration for servant leadership, Spirit-filled collaboration, compassionate accompaniment, and hope-filled discernment in a synodal Church. Sessions will be held on Wednesdays 3, 10, 17 and 25 September at the Bethany Centre, 470 Church St, North Parramatta. Register today

at parracatholic.org/maryandsynodality

Diocese of Parramatta Tribunal Office

The Tribunal of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Parramatta is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, to offer advice and assistance regarding marriage annulments and dissolution of marriages. Interviews are preferably conducted in person with Zoom and telephone interviews in special circumstances. Please contact the Tribunal Office on (02) 8838 3480 or email tribunal@parracatholic.org.



GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate, with severe shortages of food, water, and shelter.

Help families in Gaza today.

DONATE NOW www.caritas.org.au/gaza 1800 024 413



Bishop Vincent Presents Cardinal Stephen Chow SJ: 15 September

The second of two Bishop Vincent Presents public lectures in September will feature Cardinal Stephen Chow SJ, Bishop of Hong Kong and one of the most senior Church leaders in Asia. He will be presenting on Monday 15 September at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, Parramatta on the topic of 'Bridge Building'. With a background in psychology and education, and a deep pastoral heart, Cardinal Chow brings wisdom, courage, and compassion to the challenges facing the Church in our time. Register today by visiting https://parracatholic.org/cardinalchow/

MET Natural Fertility Instruction Sessions: 18 and 23 September

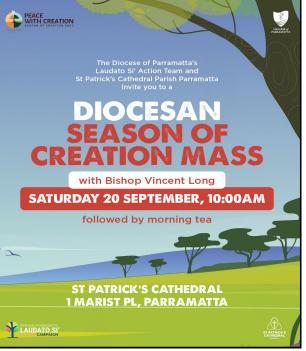
MET Natural Fertility are organising a series of instruction sessions on the Natural Family Planning methods offered by the Diocese of Parramatta via Zoom. Learn how to chart your cycle, space out pregnancies and identify the best time to reach your family goals. The last sessions of the year will be held on Thursday 18 September at 7.15pm for the Creighton Model and Tuesday 23 September for the Billings Ovulation Method at 7.30pm. Private and confidential instruction is also available. For information more and to register, please visit parracatholic.org/natural-fertility

FaithLIFE Spirituality Short Course w/Donnie Velasco: Starting 20 August

Searching for a deeper understanding of spirituality? Hoping to find renewed ways of expressing your faith? Wanting to further discern God's call in your life? Sign up now for the 3-session FaithLIFE Spirituality short course with Donnie Velasco on Wednesday 20 AUG + 27 AUG + 3 SEP! Registration and more dates and details via https://tr.ee/OkHbjm0Fq1 or get in touch with the team via met@parracatholic.org

Volunteer Communicators Network

Are you savvy with a camera, writing or social media? We want to hear from you! Share your interest with us to support our storytelling in Catholic Outlook, our websites and social media.



The Living Word

Twenty Third Sunday on Ordinary Time - Year C 6th and 7th September 2025

Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 118:137, 124

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;

treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

First Reading

Wisdom 9:13-18

A reading from the book of Wisdom Who can comprehend the will of God? What man can know the intentions of God?

Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable;

for a perishable body presses down the soul,

and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind.

It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth,

laborious to know what lies within our reach;

who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?

As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 89:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. v.1

(R.) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

1. You turn men back into dust and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night. (R.)

- 2. You sweep men away like a dream, like grass which springs up in the morning. In the morning it springs up and flowers: by evening it withers and fades. (R.)
- 3. Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? Show pity to your servants. (R.)
- 4. In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
 Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands. (R.)

Second Reading

Philemon 12-17:Phlm 9-10, 12-17

Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear brother.

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him - I could say - a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know vou have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a bloodbrother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 14:25-33

All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty

thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

Communion Antiphon

Cf Psalm 41:2-3

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,

so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

REFLECTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

Building a tower takes a lot of planning, a lot of money and a lot of labour. So do other things!

Have you ever had a dream about accomplishing something – a dream that had you planning, thinking and working in order to make it come true; a dream that you devoted lots of time and energy to? What is that dream? Are you still working on it? Or have you abandoned it?

Some young people throw themselves into a sport, a hobby, a talent or an interest. They become known for their accomplishments in that area.

What young person of your age do you know to be a very talented dancer? musician? artist? athlete? debater? writer?

How much energy and dedication do these people invest in developing their skill?

Into what area do you put the most time, energy and enthusiasm? How successful or accomplished do you feel?

How much time, energy and enthusiasm do you invest in your relationship with God? in your involvement with your parish? in your relationships with your family? How can you give more of yourself to



REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

Gospel Reflection

'Hate' is an emotive and extremely harsh word in our society. In its gospel context, the word is not used as an opposite of 'love' but as an indication of deserving of less significance than another thing. So the teaching about hating father, mother, etc Q. How do you now understand the teaching about hating facan be read as saying that being a disciple of Jesus must take ther, mother, etc? precedence over everything else, even family. In 1st Century Q. What are some of the 'costs' of being a follower of Jesus toculture, family was foremost above everything else; it was the very fibre that held society together. Jesus is saying that Q. What 'benefits' counter the 'costs'? discipleship must be put above even that which is most important and most intrinsic to life in this world. That is why he of possessions? goes on to tell the two stories about the need to count the cost before undertaking an important venture. He makes clear to his listeners that discipleship is more important than anything else and that there are huge costs associated with taking it on. A believer has to literally 'count the cost' of what it will mean to place discipleship above family, friendships, career, politics and even life itself. Jesus makes no apologies for the fact that what he is asking is incredibly demanding.

Our 'possessions' are all those things - material, emotional, and psychological - that we cling to and that we think give us our identity and status. Jesus called for a radical reinterpretation of status and position. He tells his listeners that they cannot truly be disciples if they continue to cling to those things that are considered important in this world. They have to surrender the things that bind them to this world's ideas of status and position before they can fully embrace the kingdom view of the world. As Jesus said, you have to really count the cost!

Historical Context – Radical poverty

The earliest Christian communities were characterised by a redistribution of all wealth and possessions to ensure that the needs of every single member were met. This was the first interpretation of Jesus' teaching to give up possessions to embrace discipleship. Modern religious life, grounded in the monastic traditions of the Middle Ages, embraces a radical poverty in order to free religious from societal notions of status and power so that they might more freely and openly serve others. Lack of possessions and wealth brings a humility and openness that is almost impossible when playing the game of 'keeping up with the Joneses'.

Scriptural context – Honour and Shame

The first example of counting the cost that Jesus relates is about a man building a house without the means to complete it suffering the fate of his neighbours making fun of him. Whilst the thought of neighbours laughing at our mistake may not be too serious to us, it was a devastating thought in the 1st Century. A social code of honour and shame dominated the world view at the time. To be shamed by your actions or by the actions of others was humiliating and lowered social status. Jesus frequently used the honour-shame code to make his point and challenge social expectations.

Living the Gospel - Give up my possessions?

We live in an era of extraordinary wealth in some countries contrasted against extraordinary poverty and need in other countries. Accumulation of possessions has become a driving force in our society. Flat screen televisions, iPods, multiple computers, games consoles, portable DVD players, multifunction mobile phones are all 'must-have' items. The thought of surrendering such items may be almost impossible to consider. However, Jesus' message about being a disciple calls to us. How can some people in the world surround themselves with such

luxuries while others don't have enough to eat? Does the love of 'possessions' blind us to the needs of others?

Questions for Adolescents

- Q. What was your first reaction to hearing/reading this week's gospel?
- day?
- Q. Who do you know that tries to live a simpler life without lots

Questions for Adults

- Q. What might Jesus have meant by 'Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me'?
- Q. What is the connection between the examples of counting the cost and the call to give up possessions?
- Q. What possession would you find hardest to give up? Why?
- Q. Under what circumstances do you think possessions cease to be important?
- Q. How can we reconcile the wealth of affluent societies with the poverty and need in other countries?

Learning moments

Draw cartoon strips to illustrate the two examples Jesus gave about counting the cost. Draw another example that would be more relevant today.

Research the ways in which some of the first Christians were persecuted for their faith. Explore the stories of some of the early martyrs. What effect might this gospel passage have had upon communities who were living at the time of persecution and martyrdom?

Draw up a list of 'costs' and 'benefits' of being a Christian today. How could the 'benefits' be better promoted to young people?

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Hate your father

I am told that, in most Middle Eastern languages, there is no word for 'prefer'. Perhaps influenced by extremes of heat and cold, the vocabulary of 'love' and 'hate' is used instead. No one can imagine Jesus 'hating' Joseph, but he clearly gave preference to his mission, even as a precocious 12 year old in the Temple.

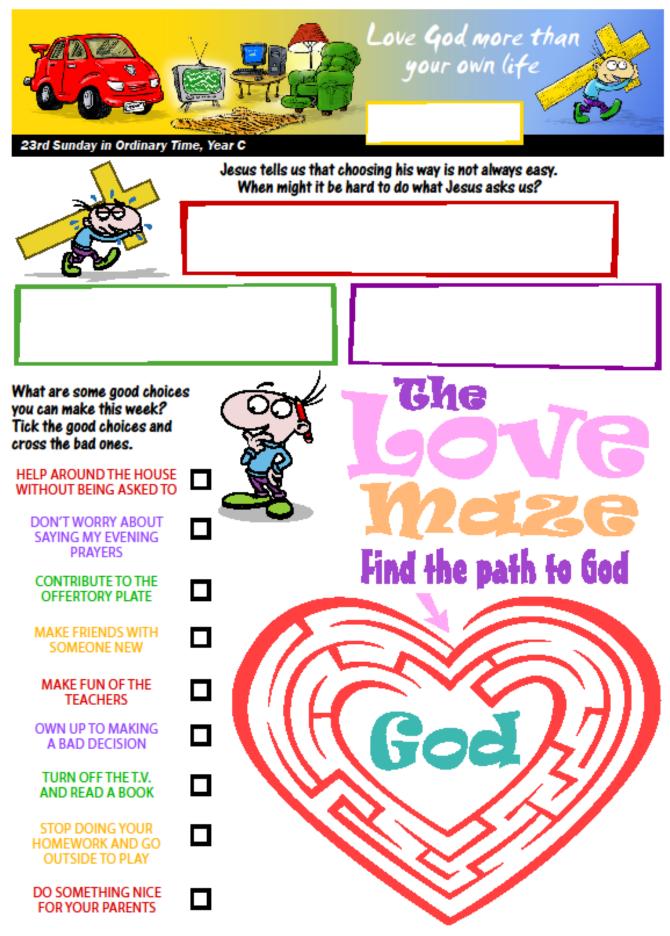
In today's Gospel, Jesus was preparing his followers, imminently and over the generations, for persecution. This would include real-life situations of families denouncing a son or daughter, or a brother turning over a brother to the authorities.

Imagine a Chinese Catholic hearing this Gospel this morning, and this afternoon being betrayed by family members for remaining loyal to the successor of St Peter. Jesus exhorts such a follower to prefer this cross over what the family considers politically correct.

We could pause for a moment to pray for all families, torn apart for allegiance to Jesus in His Church, that they may be re-united in the peace of the Risen Lord.



Children's Worksheet



Diocesan News



You are invited to the next in our series of Faith Seeking Understanding

The Archangels: their nature and their vocation in God's creation

Every year on the 29th September we celebrate the feast of the Archangels. As part of our preparation for this feast, join us as we consider questions such as, What are angels? What are archangels? How do we know they exist?

What is their role within God's creation, and in its fall, redemption, and glory?



Presented by Christian Stephens

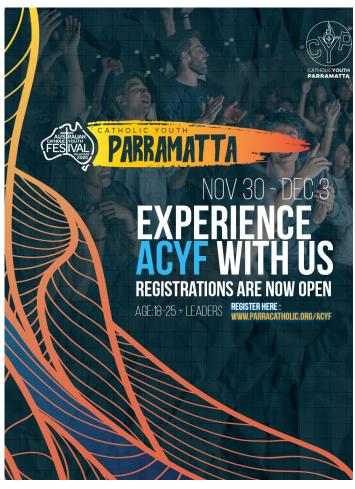
(B. Ex. Sc., MA [Theo], MPhil, PhD Candidate) is a lecturer in the School of Philosophy and Theology at Notre Dame University

Thursday 25th September after the 7:00pm Mass

Father David Scott Parish Centre St Paul the Apostle Parish 40 Buckleys Road, Winston Hills



everyone is welcome to attend and there is no need to RSVP







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158

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Planned Giving/Parish Donations

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parish community and beyond.

If you would like to contribute directly, the parish bank

details are:

BSB: 067 950 Acct No: 100000698

Acct Name: **Cranebrook Parish**

Please ensure you put your details in the reference section (ENVELOPE N# OR SURNAME)

Please contact the Parish Office if you

- ♦ are contributing to the Planned Giving Program via the envelope system and would like to change to credit card or direct debit;
- ♦ would like to join the Planned Giving Program.

SAFEGUARDING

As part of the Diocese of Parramatta's commitment to ensuring all children and adults at risk are safe, respected, protected and supported in our care, all staff and volunteers in our parishes, chaplaincies, agencies, ministries and councils are required to complete Mandatory Safeguarding.

All staff and volunteers are required to undertake safeguarding training and must complete three mandatory modules which total six points.

Cycle 1 (New staff/volunteers who have not completed any training within the Diocese) Module 1: Understanding Safeguarding and the Child Safe Standards

Module 2: Legal Compliance, ROSH (Risk Of Significant Harm) and RC (Reportable

Module 3: Working with Adults at Risk and Understanding Boundaries

Cycle 2 (Renewal Training for staff/volunteers who completed Cycle 1 two years ago) Module 4: Applying the Child Safe Standards to Safeguard Children & Adults at Risk Module 5: Legal Compliance: Risk of Significant Harm (ROSH) and Reportable Conduct

For online training opportunities please visit: https://earning.safeguarding.org.au/ Safeguarding Face-to-face Training Opportunities: 1-3 September

Please register directly for this training or for other convenient dates and locations by clicking on the training event at:

https://parracatholic.org/connect/events/?series=safeguarding-training. For more information, please email: safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

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Bateman Battersby

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www.batemanbattersby.com.au enquiries@batemanbattersby.com.au



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